THE JOHN RAY GALLERY – BRAINTREE DISTRICT MUSEUM

The John Ray gallery, housed in Braintree District Museum, tells the story of John Ray – his life and times and the lasting impact his work has had on the study of the natural world.

Opened in 1996 by David Bellamy, ten years after the unveiling of the John Ray statue which now stands in the Museum grounds, the Gallery has something for everyone with simple 'hands on' games for children to displays of work undertaken by students who have been awarded Bursaries by the John Ray Trust. Objects on display include blacksmith's tools from the forge at Black Notley – John Ray's birthplace – a fine set of 17th century apothecary jars and a copy of his most ambitious work 'Historia Plantarum' published in 1686, which lists over 30 000 species of plants.

Group visits for both children and adults can be arranged during the week (day or evening) and on Saturdays. Normal opening times are from 10am – 5pm Monday to Saturday. There is an admission charge to the Museum but no extra charge to the John Ray Gallery. Entrance to the Museum grounds, which have seating and tables suitable for picnics, is free and the Museum Shop (entrance to which is also free) sell hot drinks.

For group bookings or any other information telephone staff on 01376 325266